



**APA Pennsylvania
Lehigh Valley/Berks Section**

Section Council Monthly Meeting

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Upper Macungie Township Municipal Building

Section Council in Attendance: Craig Beavers, Molly Wood

Guest/Members in Attendance: Meredith K, Kal S., Joey Dotta, Sue Myerov, Taylor Lawrence

1. Welcome

Craig Beavers opened the meeting at 12:01PM and thanked everyone for coming.

2. Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report

Craig Beavers asked if there were any corrections to the May minutes. There were none. The minutes stand approved.

Rick Roseberry was unable to attend; there is no Treasurer's Report.

3. Planning Partner Reports

a. Berks County Planning Commission

Taylor Lawrence provided an update for the Berks County Planning Commission.

The Berks County South Campus is temporarily closed after a testing of the water system found legionella bacteria. Departments have been relocated temporarily or are working remote. You can contact them via email, their main phone number, or check their website for updates.

BCPC is ramping up work on their County Comprehensive Plan Update. Their Director of Economic Development, Pam Menet, presented the Housing Assessment study to commissioners; efforts will be underway for that.

BCPC continues to coordinate with municipalities on three different multi-municipal comprehensive plan updates, with other efforts in the works as well.

b. Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

Susan Myerov and Joey Dotta provided an update for the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission.

LVPC is completing the draft of their RCAP hopefully to be finalized this summer. The Act 167 Stormwater Plan updates will resume after the RCAP plan adoption.

LVPC is hosting the final event for the Housing Attainability and Supply Strategy event on Monday, June 23rd.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lehigh-valley-housing-supply-attainability-strategy-part-3-tickets-1363316840369?aff=oddtcreator>

National Association of Regional Councils – award for data dashboard for housing – Jill and Mackenzie in Seattle accepting reward

c. State Planning Board / Office of Community Planning

No updates.

4. Pennsylvania Chapter Reports

a. Legislative Committee

Craig Beavers provided an update for the Legislative Committee.

The LC is working to recommend that APA PA advocate for the authorization for municipalities to adopt Unified Development Ordinances.

Here is an update on several planning-related bills in Harrisburg:

- HB 375 of 2025-26 – This bill proposes requirements for developments over a certain size to provide informational signage about the project. This bill was passed in the House and is awaiting introduction in the Senate.
- HB 750 of 2025-26 – This bill proposes to allow municipalities to decide approval of warehouse development applications by municipal referendum. This bill is currently tabled in the Local Government Committee.
- HB 997 of 2025-26 – This bill proposes to amend the MPC to allow for zoning hearing boards to utilize audio recordings instead of stenographer transcriptions at hearings. This bill was voted favorably by the Local Government Committee and has not yet been taken up by the House for a vote.
- HB 1037 of 2025-26 – This bill proposes to amend the MPC to allow communities to add SALDO provisions for rebuilding preexisting single-family or two-family homes that may not conform to setback requirements. This bill was voted favorably by the Housing and Community Development Committee and has not yet been taken up by the House for a vote.
- HB 1510 of 2025-26 – This bill proposes several changes to Title 74 related to public transit funding, including providing for the option of independent transit development plans or planning studies for transit agencies, and it also reauthorizes formula funding.
- HB 1532 of 2025-26 – This bill proposes to define sketch plan and expand the authority of municipalities to adopt Specific Plans. This bill is currently under review by the House Rules Committee.

b. Professional Development Committee

Samantha McLean was unable to attend; she provided a written report for the Professional Development Committee.

The next Webinar Wednesday will be held on Wednesday, July 2 from 12 - 1 p.m. More information about the session, along with a link to register, will be available on the APA PA website in the coming weeks.

5. Presentation – Upper Macungie Township

6. Section Updates

a. 2026 Conference Planning Committee

Craig Beavers provided an overview of this item.

First Meeting will be Thursday, September 11th at 11:00 AM before the full section meeting.

We will have a social mixer and conference information gathering sometime in late July or early August to informally chat about the conference and share more information.

b. Call for Nominating Committee Members and Section Elections

Craig Beavers provided an overview of this item.

Section elections will be taking place at the end of the year. We will be looking for the following positions: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, 5 Council (2 planners/ 2 PC members)

We are looking for 3 members to serve on the Nominating Committee. There is minimal work involved, but it is important to have three individuals who are not running to help oversee the election process.

The timeline is:

Ask for Nomination of Candidates – Running September 1 to October 1

Ballot shared with everyone by October 15

Election: October 15 to November 15; results announced by December

c. Education Committee – Molly Wood

Molly Wood provided an update for the Education Committee.

There is not much to report yet; gearing towards fall semester for outreach events.

To find out more or get involved with our Education Committee, please reach out to Chair Molly Wood at mwood@lantabus-pa.gov.

d. Events Committee – Samantha McLean

Samantha McLean was unable to attend; she provided a written report for the Events Committee.

We're excited to bring together members of APA PA LVB for a Summer Social & Conference Info Session on Tuesday, July 15th from 6 - 7:30 p.m. in Southside Bethlehem (exact location TBD)! This will be a great opportunity to connect, learn about the upcoming 2026 APA Conference in Bethlehem, and explore ways to get

involved in the planning process. Attending this session does not commit you to volunteering for the conference. It's simply an opportunity to learn more.

To find out more or get involved with our Education Committee, please reach out to Chair Samantha McLean at samantha.mclean@mbakerintl.com

7. Open Floor and Updates

None.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 11th in-person at a TBD location.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.